

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 23-25 are added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,323,613 to Hara et al. (Hara). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hara fails to disclose a drive case having a plurality of independent case segments which are connected to each other at mating surfaces thereof, each of the electric power devices being respectively contained in one of the case segments such that one of the electric power devices is contained in one of the case segments and another one of the electric power devices is contained in another one of the case segments, wherein each one of the electric power devices defines a motor having a stator and each of the stators of the motors are fixed to the corresponding case segment, as reciting claim 1.

In Hara, the drive unit case 10 includes a motor accommodating portion 10a, a generator accommodating portion 10b, and a differential accommodating portion 10c (Fig. 5; col. 6, lines 51-55). However, the stators of both the electrical power devices (i.e., generator G and motor M of Hara) are fixed to the middle case segment or portion of the drive unit case 10 (e.g., Figs. 3, 4, 5, 9, and 16; col. 5, lines 1-10; col. 6, lines 25-45; and col. 10, lines 37-56 of Hara). That is, both of the stators of motor M and generator G of Hara are fixed to the same case segment of the drive case 10 (Fig. 10).

Accordingly, each of the electric power devices of Hara is not being respectively contained in one of the case segments such that one of the electric power devices is contained in one of the case segments and another one of the electric power devices is contained in another one of the case segments, wherein each of the electric power devices defines a motor having a stator and each of the stators of the motors are fixed to the corresponding case segments, as reciting claim 1.

Thus, Hara fails to disclose each and every feature as recited in claim 1 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is inappropriate. Further, Hara fails to suggest the features as recited in claim 1.

Because Hara fails to disclose or suggest the features as recited in claim 1, Hara cannot anticipate the subject matter of claims 2 and 15-22, which depend from claim 1, for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1 as well as for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hara in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,218,747 to Tsuruhara. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tsuruhara fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hara as applied to claim 1.

Because neither Hara nor Tsuruhara alone or in permissible combination disclose or suggest the features as recited in claim 1, the alleged combination cannot render obvious the subject matter of claims 3 and 4-14, which depend from claim 1, for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1 as well as for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Kurt P. Goudy  
Registration No. 52,954

JAO:KPG/tbm

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time  
Amendment Transmittal

Date: June 22, 2006

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--